



FIRELINE

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WASHINGTON FIRE COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

FIRST QUARTER 2010

A Concept Comes Alive

The State's New Fire Sprinkler Demonstration Trailer

By Ed Borgatti, Deputy State Fire Marshal

The statistics regarding fire incidents and fire deaths remains high, particularly for a highly industrialized country such as the United States. In 2008, 78% of all structural fires occurred in homes, there was a residential fire every 78 seconds, almost 3,000 civilian fire deaths occurred in homes, and \$8.5 billion in property damage occurred in residential properties (statistics were obtained by the National Fire Sprinkler Association).

The Washington State Fire Marshal's Office, in partnership with the fire sprinkler industry, took on the challenge of trying to reduce these statistics by creating a residential fire sprinkler demonstration trailer. Many people are not aware that there has never been a multiple death in any facility serviced by fire sprinklers.

For those groups that believe smoke detectors are sufficient, it has been shown that 30% of smoke alarms did not work in homes that had fires and 25% of fire deaths occurred in home fires in which smoke alarms sounded.

The sprinkler trailer will be available for use in Washington State throughout 2010

The main purpose of the trailer is to demonstrate how residential fire sprinklers save lives and to clarify many of the misconceptions about residential fire sprinklers, including that if one sprinkler head is activated, then all will be activated or that smoke can activate a sprinkler head.

The demonstration trailer contains two compartments, the most visible being the burn room. As the name indicates, a fire is started in this compartment and the audience can observe the growth of the fire, the activation of the smoke alarm and the extinguishment of the fire by the activation of the fire sprinkler head.

The second compartment is the educational section. The most noticeable item is a standalone 300 gallon, 13D residential fire sprinkler system which provides the required amount of water and a pump for the minimum amount of water flow and pressure for those residences that may not have sufficient water flow available. A soffit is also installed in the compartment to demonstrate how subtle the sprinkler heads appear if installed in a residence.

There are two computers; one focusing on fire sprinklers with separate programming for homeowners, for contractors, for children, and for public officials. The other computer contains programming for fire escape planning, fire drills, fire safety, and other related topics.

The sprinkler trailer will be available for use in Washington State throughout 2010. Please contact the State Fire Marshal's Office for more information at <http://www.wsp.wa.gov/fire/firemars.htm>.

PDC Filing Reminder

Fire commissioners must file a Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F-1) with the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission by April 15. The F-1 can be filed electronically or by mail any time between now and the April 15 deadline.

Forms and the e-filing application may be found under Filer Resources at www.pdc.wa.gov. Please contact the PDC staff for assistance with filing: pdc@pdc.wa.gov, 360.753.1111, or toll-free 1.877.601.2828.

NOTE: Commissioners serving small districts with less than 1,000 registered voters do not file the F-1.

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A Message from the President *by Bob Skaggs*



Wow, here we are well into the new year and a new decade. The possibilities of new opportunities before us is exciting as well as challenging.

As we all know, the fire service is changing before our very eyes; we have never before been challenged as we are now, to do much more with even less funding. It is these times that the real leaders (**all** of you) step up and lead their respective departments to successful outcomes.

This is why I encourage you and your staff, whenever possible, to attend as many classes as you can. Knowledge is the power to prevail in these hard times and do what our citizens elected us to do: make the hard decisions that will keep them safe.

The WFCA Saturday Seminar Series is underway. More than 80 commissioners and other district personnel attended the Spokane Seminar on February 20th. There will be additional educational opportunities on March 27th in Ocean Shores and June 5th at Campbell's Resort in Chelan.

The more you learn, the better leader you will become—I hope to see you there.

We are listening to you, our members, as you offer comments and concerns on how we operate and provide the services that you want. Keeping

...we encourage comments, suggestions and your attendance at all WFCA meetings.

this in mind, beginning in Ocean Shores and again in Chelan, Jim Lux, your Health Care Manager, will be providing a brief 30-minute presentation about the WFCA-sponsored health care program. Please take this opportunity to visit with Jim and learn about the program.

I have been asked about what is the appropriate attire for a Fire Commissioner at formal functions and funerals. As always, it is up to your individual department's policies; however, your association has guidelines for Class A Uniforms for Fire Com-

missioners, which have been used in the state already, that may be adopted in your own departments (see article on page 5 for more information). Remember, a Fire Commissioner has always been a uniformed rank in the fire service.

During the last Legislative Day in Olympia, we were all faced with the possibility of the loss of the Volunteer Pension and Relief Board. Those of you who were in attendance heard your association's position on this ill-conceived bill which would transfer the administration of some 13,000 members to other state departments which, as far as anyone can tell, have no experience in this type of work.

With your help the bill was defeated. We will continue to work for the inclusion of our support service members who respond to emergencies to be part of the volunteer pension plan.

Remember that we are an open and transparent association and we encourage comments, suggestions and your attendance at all WFCA meetings. Until next time, be safe out there and look out for each other.

2010 Saturday Seminar Series

The 2010 WFCA Saturday Seminar Series brochure, outlining detailed program information, was mailed to all members earlier this year.

The seminar series features a program for **Newly Elected/Appointed Commissioners, Chiefs & Secretaries** (final presentation will be in Ocean Shores on March 27). This is an excellent refresher course for experienced commissioners as well!

Also in Ocean Shores, Jim Lux will be on hand to provide information regarding the WFCA

health care program; join Jim from 8 - 8:30 a.m. at the Shilo Inn to get information and provide input.

In Chelan on June 5 a workshop will be held on **"Standards of Cover (SOC): How to Establish Fire District Response Objectives."**

If you would like a copy of the seminar brochure, log onto www.wfca.wa.gov and click **WFCA Programs** in the drop-down menu under the **Education & Training** tab. If you would prefer to receive the brochure by mail, please call the WFCA office at 1.800.491.9322.

ON THE WEB

If you are a new fire commissioner, be sure to check out the WFCA website at www.wfca.wa.gov. You will find general information about the association, educational opportunities for fire commissioners, equipment for sale, and other issues of interest to the fire service. If you need any help navigating the site, please call the association office at 1.800.491.9322.





The Management Excellence Awards

Why Don't We Seem to Care?

By Steve Lich, Region 5 Director

"I feel that most of us believe that the Management Excellence Awards are worth keeping. We just need to bring the program into the 21st Century..."

The beautiful trophies are a matter of pride for the annual winners. Press releases to your local news media can be used to educate your voters on what a good job your district has been doing for them. Firefighters and staff are proud to see the awards in their trophy cases. So then, why do less than 1% of the fire districts in our state participate in the annual competition for the Management Excellence Award?

Only 12 districts applied for the Management Excellence Award in 2009. Of those, 7 were in Category A, meaning a budget over \$1,000,000. In May 2008, the WFCAs sent out a survey asking for input regarding the MEA. There were only 18 responses. Does this mean that the program is not important to the majority of our members? Or does it mean that we need to keep it, but fix it to be something more of us want to be a part of?

I was asked by Roger Ferris and the Board of Directors to try to analyze the MEA program, and to come up with some suggestions. In discussion with members of my Region, and with folks at the Fall Conference, I did get a few suggestions, some of which are easy to implement, and some of which need more study.

Comments for keeping the program included:

- Trophies are a matter of pride. They look great in our display cases.
- Press releases from winning districts provide great public relations, letting your voters know that your management efforts are some of the best in the state.
- Great for morale within the district, including staff, firefighters, and commissioners.
- Provides a good measure of how the district is doing, as the questionnaire is being filled out. Also lets you know where improvements can be made.
- Incentive for districts to "keep up with their neighbors."

Comments for dropping or drastically changing the program:

- Forms are too hard to fill out.
- Scrapbook takes too much time (even

though the scrapbook is not used as part of the judging).

- Big districts have paid staff to do the questionnaire, but "we" don't.
- Big districts have adequate staffing to provide all those "extra" programs, like public education, fire prevention, safety programs, etc., and have the money to send their personnel and commissioners to all the conferences and classes, but "we" don't.
- Time working on this could be better spent on more important projects.
- Program is not properly promoted. Many don't even know it exists or what it is.
- My district is "not as good" as all those others. Why should I bother?

It should be noted that nobody who filled out the May 2008 survey asked that the MEA program be dropped completely. But a large majority wanted some changes made. One of the prime requests was that the categories be revised. Budgets over \$1,000,000 are not all that uncommon nowadays. The increasing number of Mega Districts, plus the fact that many smaller budgets are still much higher than a few years back, means to me that we need to re-evaluate that aspect of the program.

Another suggestion was that we should align the reporting period with the calendar year rather than the May-to-April reporting period that has been used for many years. The WFCAs Board adopted this change at its last meeting which will go into effect for the 2010 program.

There are some other good ideas already provided to me. But I need a lot more input. Since the survey had dismal returns, I am just going to offer my email address as a collection point for your input. Please contact me at splich@wavecable.com with any and all comments and suggestions. Or, contact the WFCAs office and they will forward the information to me.

I feel that most of us believe that the Management Excellence Awards are worth keeping. We just need to bring the program into the 21st Century, and make it something more of us want to participate in.

2010 FIRE SERVICE DIRECTORY CHANGES

as of February 25, 2010

ADAMS COUNTY

Fire District 1

New meeting date: Meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month, 7:00 p.m.

Fire District 5

Address for Commissioner Kirk Little: 1044 S. Hi Lo Dr., Othello, WA 99344

BENTON COUNTY

Fire District 6

Address for District Secretary Gerald Sherman: P. O. Box 218, Paterson, WA 99345

CLALLAM COUNTY

Fire District 1

Add Commissioner Chet Hunt, 321 Evergreen Loop, Forks, WA 98331, (360)374-5374

Fire District 4

Email for Commissioner Chris Christie: chris_christie@live.com

CLARK COUNTY

Fire District 5

New meeting time: Meets 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 3:00 p.m.

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Fire District 3

New commissioner replacing Bill Rising: Steve Carlson, 102 W. Patit, Dayton, WA 99328
New district secretary replacing Donna Hanger: Carla Rowe, P. O. Box 66, Dayton, WA 99328, crowe@ccfiredistrict3.org

GRANT COUNTY

Fire District 10

Email for Commissioner Dwight Vander Vorste: dsvander@ifiber.tv

GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY

Fire District 3

Mailing address for Commissioner Thomas Bearden: P. O. Box 1441, Westport, WA 98595
Add Commissioner Tammy Graham, P. O. Box 1585, Westport, WA 98595, (360)268-1585, tammyag@msn.com

Fire District 6

Mailing address for Commissioner Chris McMullen: P. O. Box 642, Hoquiam, WA 98550

Fire District 11

Mailing address for Commissioner Jeremiah Marsh: P. O. Box 133, Grayland, WA 98547

Fire District 17

New commissioner replacing Luther Brownrigg: Dion Johnson, P. O. Box 23, Humptulips, WA 98552
Correct spelling for Commissioner Clifford Amsbury
Add District Secretary Rebecca Radonski, P. O. Box 23, Humptulips, WA 98552

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Fire District 5

Address for Commissioner Bill Gallant: 13 Bentley Pl., Port Townsend, WA 98368

KING COUNTY

Valley Regional Fire Authority

Add to Board of Governance: Rich Wagner, Auburn City Council, rwagner@auburnwa.gov
Correct spelling of Board of Governance member Tren Walker, Pacific City Council

Fire District 11

Remove Fire Chief Scott LaVielle

Fire District 16

Address for Commissioner Don Ellis: 6222 N.E. 182nd St., Kenmore, WA 98028

Fire District 27

Address for Commissioner Daniel Meredith: P. O. Box 609, Fall City, WA 98024

KITSAP COUNTY

Fire District 2

Address for Commissioner Paul Bang-Knudsen: 7100 N.E. Bay Hill Rd., Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

Klickitat County

Fire District 10

New commissioner replacing Robert Mercer: Dan Andrews, 1085 Alderdale Rd., Prosser WA 99350
Add Commissioner Gary Hess, 1318 Hale Rd., Mabton, WA 98935
Address for Fire Chief Peter Mercer: 235 Gandy Rd., Prosser, WA 99350
Commissioners meet 3rd Thursday, 12:00 noon, Mercer Canyon conference room

LEWIS COUNTY

Fire District 18

Address for Commissioner Phil Congdon: 115 Blaine Meadow Dr., Glenoma, WA 98336-9717

MASON COUNTY

Fire District 11

District email address: mail@mcf11.org
Email address for Commissioner Ronald D. Ritchie: ronritchie@mcf11.org
Email address for Commissioner Dan Ward: danward@mcf11.org

MASON COUNTY (continued)

Fire District 11 Email address for Commissioner Gary Volk: garyvolk@mcf11.org
Email address for District Secretary Michelle Ritchie: michelleritchie@mcf11.org
Email address for Fire Chief K. C. Whitehouse: kcwhitehouse@mcf11.org

Fire District 18 Address for district headquarters and Michael Fain, Human Resources: 240 N. Standstill Dr. S., Hoodspport, WA 98548

OKANOGAN COUNTY

Fire District 2 Mailing address for Commissioner Raymond Green: P. O. Box 178, Elmer City, WA 99124

Fire District 7 Mailing address for Commissioner Dick Lange: P. O. Box 78, Riverside, WA 98849

Fire District 15 New commissioner replacing Kyle Wilfong: Tim Baird, P. O. Box 490, Brewster, WA 98812
Add Commissioner Phil Brownlee, P. O. Box 395, Pateros, WA 98846
Mailing address for District Secretary Kaylee Weatherwax: P. O. Box 490, Brewster, WA 98812

PEND OREILLE COUNTY

Fire District 5 New district secretary replacing Nancy Schleisner: Winnie Sundseth, 406722 Hwy. 20, Cusick, WA 99119
New fire chief replacing Burch Schleisner: Jay Foster, 406722 Hwy. 20, Cusick, WA 99119, (509)671-2286, jfoster@firehouseemail.com
Commissioners meet 2nd Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

Fire District 6 Correct spelling for Commissioner Art Falk
Mailing address for Commissioner Art Falk: P. O. Box 115, Usk, WA 99180

PIERCE COUNTY

Fire District 17 Address for Commissioner Olivia Werner: P. O. Box 1274, Roy, WA 98580

SKAGIT COUNTY

Fire District 2 New telephone for Commissioner Kenneth Anderson: (360)708-2206

SKAMANIA COUNTY

Fire District 6 Address for Commissioner Jerry Sauer: P. O. Box 61, Cougar, WA 98616

SNOHOMISH COUNTY

Fire District 5 Email address for District Secretary Linda Guiney: l.guiney@snofire5.org

Fire District 23 District email address: scfpd23@wildblue.net
Email address for District Secretary Marie Tharp: tharpmarie@wildblue.net

SPOKANE COUNTY

Cheney New mayor replacing Allan Gainer: Tom Trulove

Fire District 4 Add Commissioner Roger Krieger, P. O. Box 191, Deer Park, WA 99006, (509)276-8230, kriegers52381@aol.com

WAHKIAKUM COUNTY

Fire District 4 New commissioner replacing Erle Cooper: Wayne Cochran, 47 Clover St., Cathlamet, WA 98612, skgy59@aol.com

WHITMAN COUNTY

Oakesdale New fire chief replacing Joe Fox: Gary Shrope

Fire District 8 Address for Fire Chief Ray Summers: 131 Church Hill Rd., LaCrosse, WA 99143

Fire District 10 New fire chief replacing Joe Fox: Gary Shrope, P. O. Box 203, Oakesdale, WA 99158

Fire District 13 New district secretary replacing Karen Aeschliman: Kara Riebold, 6661 SR 194, Colfax, WA 99111
Address for Fire Chief Scott Aeschliman: P. O. Box 722, Colfax, WA 99111

YAKIMA COUNTY

Fire District 7 District headquarters mailing address: P. O. Box 49, Bickleton, WA 99322

COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATIONS – Page 100

Skagit County New president replacing Mark Anderson: Richard Curtis, Anacortes Fire Department

Bylaw Changes Due May 15

The deadline for submitting proposed amendments to the *WFCA Articles of Association and Bylaws* is May 15, 2010.

Please submit proposals to the WFCA at P. O. Box 134, Olympia, WA 98507, fax 360.664.0415 or email wfca@wfca.wa.gov.

If you would like a copy of the current bylaws for review, please visit www.wfca.wa.gov or call the WFCA office at 800.491.9322.

Your Dues at Work

At its December 2009 meeting, the WFCA Board of Directors adopted the 2010 regular operating budget of \$539,200 which represents a decrease of approximately 1.9% in comparison to 2009.

This was accomplished in part through increased efficiencies and consolidation of Board meetings as well as committees' use of conference call technology. Also, publication of *Fireline* was decreased to a quarterly schedule.

None of the benefits of membership have been compromised or reduced and WFCA staff continue to provide top quality service to the membership.

For a complete list of membership benefits (to see how your dues are utilized), please visit the association's website at www.wfca.wa.gov (click *Benefits of Membership* in drop-down menu under *About WFCA* tab).

Please contact the WFCA office at 1.800.491.9322 if you have any questions regarding association operations, budget or dues.

Ads

FOR SALE by Oak Harbor Fire Dept.: Surplus 1988 E-ONE commercial pumper, 6V92 Detroit Diesel 350 HP, Allison 4 speed Automatic Transmission, 1500 GPM Hale pump with 750 gallon aluminum water tank and aluminum wheels. 36,341 miles, 1604 hrs. Includes maintenance and annual pump test records, Sigtronic intercom system, 2 ea 1 3/4" cross-lays, 1 ea 2 1/2" rear pre-connect, SCBA jumpseats, large diameter rear suction & pre-connect for top mount deck gun. Rockwood around the pump foam system. Well maintained. \$40,000. Sold as is, where is, no warranties guaranteed or implied. Call during regular business hours 360.279.4703 Chief Soptich, City of Oak Harbor Fire Dept.

FOR SALE by Orting Valley Fire and Rescue (Pierce 18): 1986 Spartan 1500 GPM Pumper, excellent condition, 45,000 miles, 500 gallon tank, enclosed ladders, top-mount pump panel. \$25,000. Sold as is, where is, with no warranties guaranteed or implied. Contact: Paul Webb at 360.893.2221 or pwebb@OVFR.org.

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT by San Juan 4: Paramedic/Firefighter. Request application packets in one of the following ways: 1) In person: San Juan County Fire Dist 4, 2228 Fisherman Bay Rd., Lopez Island, WA; 2) E m a i l : lopezfire@lopezfire.com. Please log onto www.interisland.net/lopezfire/ for more info on position and district. District anticipates filling the position no later than May 3, 2010. **FOR SALE by Thurston 8:** 2009 Chevy Tahoe 4X4 Special Service Vehicle Command Unit 5.3 L

Vortec V8 with active fuel management and flex-fuel capability. Less than 10,000 miles 6 speed Automatic Transmission. Side curtain air bags, 4 wheel disc brakes, tire pressure monitor system. Driver power front bucket seat with 6 way adjust, rear 60/40 bench. Air conditioning. AM/FM stereo with CD player, Cruise control. Tinted glass, auto headlamps, power heated outside mirrors. LED light bar with opticom, front wig wag headlights, Rear flashers, Spot light, Corner strobes, dual batteries, wiring for front grill lights and speakers, engine block heater. Excellent Condition. \$32,000. Chief Greg Kessel, 360.491.5320 or email Kessel@southbayfire.com.

WANTED by Ridge Runner Fire Dept. (ID): Ridge Runner Fire is rural volunteer department in Kootenai, Idaho which has begun providing structural fire suppression to residents. District would like to equip recently acquired 1976 American LaFrance pumper with: 1 attic ladder; 1 8' pike pole; 1 roof ladder; 2 portable hand lights; 12' or 14'20' of 5" hard suction; 2 salvage covers, 12' x 14'; 15' of 5" soft suction; 1 hose clamp; 800' of 5" supply hose; 1 hydrant hose gate, 2 1/2"; 400' of 2 1/2" supply hose; 1 gated wye, 2 1/2" x 1 1/2" x 1 1/2"; 800' of 1 3/4" or 1 1/2" attack hose; 1 mounted radio; 1 combination spray nozzle, 200 gpm; 2 combination spray nozzles, 95 gpm; 1 6lb flathead axe; 1 6lb pickhead axe; 1 6' pike pole. Department is an Idaho 501c(3) corporation. Contact Chief Dale Pickering, 164 Tweedy Lane, Kootenai, ID 83539, 208.926.7328, 6picks@wildblue.net. Thank you.

2010 Legislative Roundtable Save the Date!

The WFCA will hold its first full-day legislative roundtable on Saturday, May 1, 2010 at the Yakima Convention Center beginning at 9:00 a.m.

The Roundtable is modeled after the popular Chelan Seminar legislative program but is expanded to allow more time to discuss legislative priorities. The program will conclude at 4:00 p.m.

For those wishing overnight guest room accommodations, the WFCA has secured a rate quote at the following hotels:

- Holiday Inn Downtown Yakima Convention Center
802 E. Yakima Ave., Yakima, WA 98901
Reservations: 1.800.465.4329 – room rate is \$89 plus tax
- Red Lion Hotel Yakima Center
607 E. Yakima Ave., Yakima, WA 98901
Reservations: 1.800.733.5466 – room rate is \$84 single, \$94 double, and includes a “Roaring Start Breakfast”

When making room reservations be sure to mention you are with the WFCA.

The registration fee, which includes lunch, is \$75 per person. This is your opportunity as a WFCA member to give input on the direction of the association’s legislative program over the next two years, so mark your calendar for May 1st...see you in Yakima!

2010 WFCA Conference

The WFCA 2010 Annual Conference will be held at the Red Lion Hotel/Pasco, October 28-30. The Red Lion Hotel is located at 2525 North 20th Avenue, Pasco, WA 99301.

For room reservations, please call the Red Lion at 1.800.325.4000 (main line is 509.547.0701).

Alternate accommodations are available at the Best Western Pasco Inn & Suites, which is located a short distance (5-minute walk) from the Red Lion. For room reservations, please call the Best Western at 509.543.7722.

NOTE: The Snure Seminar and the Legal Committee Meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 27 and conference will conclude at noon on the 30th. A complete schedule of events will be mailed to members in August but we suggest you book your room reservation now.

Commissioner Uniform Policy Available

The issue of uniforms for elected fire commissioners was discussed at the January 19, 2010 WFCA Board of Directors’ meeting. The commissioners of Graham Fire & Rescue implemented a policy for uniforms so they could be identified as elected officials. This is very popular on the east coast and is a positive way to express your support as policy makers for your fire district.

Graham Fire & Rescue has graciously allowed the WFCA to make this policy available along with information on the look and feel of a fire commissioner uniform. If you are interested in uniforms for your Board of Commissioners, you may view the sample policy on the WFCA website at www.wfca.wa.gov (see *Commissioner Uniforms* on the homepage under FireWire) or contact the WFCA office (1.800.491.9322) for a copy.

The 2010 Washington State Fire Service Directory has been mailed to all WFCA member district commissioners, secretaries and chiefs. Please be sure to check your district’s listing and let the WFCA office know if there are any errors or updates. For additional copies contact the WFCA office at 1.800.491.9322, email wfca@wfca.wa.gov, fax 360.664.0415 or write P.O. Box 134, Olympia, WA 98507. The charge per copy is \$15 for WFCA members and \$30 for non-members.



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OFFICE HOURS

8:30AM - 4:30PM
MONDAY - FRIDAY

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THE WFCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND/OR MEMBERSHIP.